

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01054 090034Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2376

S E C R E T ANKARA 1054

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY.

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (IHSAN SABRI CAGLAYAINGIL)

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: STATE 031038

FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL TELEPHONED ME AT HOME AT 2130 THIS EVENING, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8. HE SAID HE HAD JUST HEARD FROM AMBASSADOR ESENBEL THAT DEPARTMENT WAS PROPOSING TO ANNOUNCE THAT HIS VISIT HAD BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE "THE GOT HAS DECIDED..."

HE SAID HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT. HE ASKED ME IF HIS FONOFF COLLEAGUES HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO ME THAT THAT HIS SOLE REASON FOR SUGGESTING POSTPONEMENT HAD BEEN HIS CONCERN ABOUT SECRETARY'S JUSTIFIED PREOCCUPATION OVER MRS. KISSINGER'S HEALTH. I CONFIRMED THAT THIS HAD BEEN DONE. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN SAID HE HAD JUST HEARD THAT MRS. KISSINGER'S OPERATION HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND HE ASKED ME TO PASS HIS BEST WISHES TO SECRETARY.

FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROCEED TO WASHINGTON AT A VERY EARLY DATE. I ASKED IF HE COULD RETURN TO ORIGINAL SCHEDULE. HE REPLIED THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO LEAVE ANKARA FOR WASHINGTON MORNING OF FEBRUARY 11.

AFTER CONSULTING WASHINGTON, I TELEPHONED BACK TO FOREIGN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ANKARA 01054 090034Z

MINISTER. I SUGGESTED THAT FIRST SENTENCE OF PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT

BY DEPARTMENT MIGHT BE CHANGED TO READ: "BECAUSE OF MRS. KISSINGER' ILLNESS, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED..." CAGLAYANGIL ASKED IF ANNOUNCEMENT COULD READ ".....THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE DECIDED....." HE SAID TEXT I HAD PROPOSED COULD STILL GIVE HIM TROUBLE IN THAT IT LEFT OPEN QUESTION AS TO WHO HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE. HE ASKED IF USG COULD ACCEPT FOLLOWING: "BECAUSE OF MRS. KISSINGER'S ILLNESS, IT HAS BEEN AGREED RPT AGREED TO POSTPONE...." I SAID I WOULD TRY THIS OUT. CAGLAYANGIL ALSO SAID HE COULD ACCEPT LANGUAGE SAYING THAT THE VISIT WOULD BE RESCHEDULED FOR AN EARLY MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE."

COMMENT: FOREGOING, ALONG WITH TWO TELEGRAMS I SENT EARLIER, INDICATES THAT THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A LOT MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE. AS I WRITE THIS, LATE ON A SUNDAY EVENING IN ANKARA, MY GUESS IS THAT DECISION AS TO WHETHER CABLAYANGIL SHOULD VISIT WASHINGTON IN EFFORT TO WRAP UP US-GOT BILATERAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN A VERY NEAR THING WITHIN GOT. TURKS ARE INCENSED BY LATEST STATEMENTS OF BITSIOS AND MAKARIOS. I HAD IT FROM A WELL PLACED TURKISH JOURNALIST THIS AFTERNOON THAT TURKS THINK THEY ARE ABOUT TO SUFFER ANOTHER GREEK-ENGINEERED DEFEAT IN THE US CONGRESS. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE OTHER FORCES WITHIN GOT WHO ARE PRESSING FOR EARLY COMPLETION OF NEW US-TURKISH BILATERAL AGREEMENT. MY GUESS IS THAT LATTER ARE NOW ON TOP AND THAT IF WE ACT QUICKLY WE CAN REVIVE EARLY CAGLAYANGIL VISIT. I WOULD LIKE INSTRUCTIONS TO: A) GO BACK TO CAGLAYANGIL AND URGE THAT HE CARRY OUT ORIGINAL PLAN FOR WASHINGTON VISIT AND ASSURE HIM THAT IN SUCH EVENT ALL USUAL PROTOCOL PRACTICES WILL BE CARRIED OUT, OR;
B) GO BACK TO CAGLAYANGIL PROPOSING FIRM EARLY ALTERNATIVE DATES FOR WASHINGTON VISIT.
BERGUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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